

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1091

To reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2007

Mr. MACK (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. CASTOR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Save Our Shores Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress finds the following:

7 (1) A harmful algal bloom is a condition that
8 occurs in ocean waters when a significantly large

1 and highly concentrated growth of phytoplankton or
2 algae produces biotoxins or otherwise causes nega-
3 tive effects.

4 (2) A common harmful algal bloom event
5 known as Red Tide occurs when appropriate condi-
6 tions allow for massive overgrowth of micro algae,
7 causing phytoplankton blooms that discolor the
8 water.

9 (3) Harmful algal blooms commonly occur in
10 waters off the East and West coasts of the United
11 States, as well as in the Gulf of Mexico, the Great
12 Lakes, and the waters surrounding the offshore ter-
13 ritories of the United States.

14 (4) Harmful algal blooms cause dangerous res-
15 piratory distress, burning eyes, and other ailments
16 to individuals in affected areas, as well as the na-
17 tionwide potential of severe food poisoning from the
18 consumption of contaminated shellfish.

19 (5) Harmful algal blooms cause severe impacts
20 to natural resources by way of illness and death to
21 marine mammals, fish, sea turtles, and sea birds as
22 well as coral reef and sea grass communities. As
23 massive algal blooms die, their decomposition de-
24 pletes oxygen from the water resulting in hypoxic

1 and anoxic conditions leaving vast dead zones in our
2 coastal oceans and lakes.

3 (6) Harmful algal blooms cause significant eco-
4 nomic harm to businesses and individuals engaged in
5 fishing and shellfishing, as well as to communities
6 and businesses that depend on their coastal location
7 for tourism.

8 (7) Because harmful algal blooms are affected
9 by many variables, including weather and currents,
10 it is impossible to predict the location, timing, or du-
11 ration of harmful algal blooms, and further study is
12 needed to understand how these variables, as well as
13 other environmental factors, may cause or contribute
14 to the formation or maintenance of harmful algal
15 blooms.

16 (8) The Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia
17 Amendments Act of 2004 provided a research frame-
18 work for addressing harmful algal blooms and for
19 consolidating research efforts.

20 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM**
21 **AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL ACT**
22 **OF 1998.**

23 (a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 605 of the Harmful
24 Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of
25 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note) is amended—

1 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by
2 striking “\$25,500,000 for fiscal year 2008” and in-
3 serting “\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008
4 through 2010”;

5 (2) in each of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and
6 (6) by striking “2008” and inserting “2010”; and

7 (3) in paragraph (5) by striking “fiscal year
8 2008” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2008
9 through 2010”.

10 (b) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 603
11 of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and
12 Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note) is amended
13 by adding at the end the following:

14 “(j) ANNUAL REPORT.—At the time the President
15 submits the President’s annual budget request to the Con-
16 gress each year, the Task Force shall submit to the Con-
17 gress a report on the status and accomplishments of ac-
18 tivities under this Act during the preceding year.”.

19 (c) AWARD OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
20 FOR HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM RESEARCH.—All Federal
21 financial assistance for harmful algal bloom research shall
22 be awarded on a competitive, peer-reviewed basis.

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